

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am not a DIRECTV customer, I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will provide increased competition to cable companies.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

I feel that this would provide needed competition to my local cable provider since they practically have a monopoly on providing local television channels with quality reception. They are one of the few monopolies which are allowed to continue, and they have taken unfair advantage of the consumers. They need some competition to bring them back into focus on what the consumer wants and needs.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Judy Mehrhoff  
2186 McDonald St  
Mandeville, LA 70448